

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - UPCOMING FORD-SADAT MEETING

REF: USIA 12095

1. BANNER HEADLINES AND LEADING FRONT PAGE STORIES
IN ALL CAIRO PAPERS MAY 31 REPORT PRESIDENT SADAT'S ARRIVAL
VIENNA YESTERDAY AND LEAD STORIES NOTE INTENSE INTER-
NATIONAL INTEREST IN SALZBURG MEETING TOMORROW.

2. AL-AHRAM DEVOTES FRONT PAGE TO FULL COVERAGE OF
SADAT CURRENT TRIP AND GENERAL EUROPEAN SCENE BY EDITOR-
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IN-CHIEF ALY HAMDY EL-GAMMAL AND KIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

HAMDY FOUAD. AS PART OF THIS COVERAGE, AL-AHRAM HIGH-LIGHTS PRESIDENT FORD'S PRESS STATEMENTS IN BRUSSELS THAT HE WOULD "PRESENT PROPOSALS FOR ME PEACE SETTLEMENT BY END OF JUNE OR EARLY JULY." STORY ALSO QUOTES PRESIDENT SADAT'S PRESS STATEMENT IN VIENNA THAT MEETING WITH U.S. PRESIDENT "IS IMPORTANT" AND THAT "IT COMES AT CRITICAL MOMENT." PRESIDENT SADAT ADDED THAT "IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW FROM PRESIDENT FORD RESULTS OF U.S. ME POLICY REEVALUATION AND TO PREPARE FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE AS IT IS THE ONLY PATH TOWARD PEACE." ANSWERING PRESS QUESTIONS, SADAT EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT PRESIDENT FORD IS "FRANK AND HONEST." HE SPECULATED THAT IN CASE SALZBURG MEETING GOES NOT REACH "DEFINITE RESULTS, U.S. MAY LOSE MUCH "BECAUSE EVERYONE KNOWS THAT U.S. NOT ONLY OFFERS ISRAEL BREAD, BUTTER AND GUNS, BUT ALSO MAKES UP ITS BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT. YET ISRAEL CHALLENGES U.S. AND PLACE MINES IN PATH OF U.S. POLICY."

3. AL-AHRAM ALSO QUOTES FROM NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE STORY ON FORD-SADAT MEETING. PRESIDENT FORD, PAPER SAID, "WILL TRY TO SUCCEED WHERE SECRETARY KISSINGER FAILED." PAPER EXPLAINED THAT GENEVA CONFERENCE "SEEMS TO BE ONLY PEACE ALTERNATIVE" AND THAT NOT REACHING PEACE THROUGH GENEVA "WOULD SPEED UP RESUMPTION OF WAR." PAPER ADDED PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER "STILL HAVE AMPLE TIME BEFORE END OF THIS YEAR TO EXERT EFFORTS AIMED AT ACHIEVING DIPLOMATIC PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE IN AREA, ESPECIALLY NOW THAT SYRIA HAS ACTUALLY ACCEPTED EXTENSION OF UNEF TERM FOR SIX MORE MONTHS." USSR, PAPER POINTED OUT, HAS NOT PRESSED FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE MEETING IN ORDER TO SEE RESULTS OF PRESIDENT FORD'S TALKS WITH SADAT AND RABIN.

4. AL-AHRAM STORY ALSO REFERS TO "AGREEMENT BY ALL ARAB POLITICAL CIRCLES THAT SADAT GOES TO SALZBURG WITH ARAB AUTHORIZATION TO TAKE APPROPRIATE DECISIONS FOR RESOLVING EXPLODING AND DETERIORATING ME SITUATION." ACCORDING TO THESE CIRCLES, U.S., IN LIGHT OF SALZBURG MEETING, HAS EITHER TO "SURRENDER TO ZIONIST PRESSURE" UNCLASSIFIED

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OR "LISTEN TO VOICE OF JUSTICE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW IN ORDER TO PRESERVE ITS INTERESTS IN ME, PARTICULARLY IN ARAB COUNTRIES."

5. FROM NEW YORK, AL-AHRAM'S CORRESPONDENT KESHISHIAN REPORTS THAT "U.N. DIPLOMATS BELIEVE THAT SADAT'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD "WILL CONTRIBUTE EFFECTIVELY TO ME SETTLEMENT" BECAUSE SADAT'S EFFORTS WILL HAVE

"UNANIMOUS ARAB SUPPORT." KESHISHIAN REPORTS VIEW BY "DIPLOMATS" THAT, THROUGH SALZBURG MEETING, SADAT WILL SEEK TO LEARN IF U.S. ME POLICY REEVALUATION AS BEEN CARRIED OUT WITH "WELL DEFINED GUIDELINES" AND IF U.S. WILL FOLLOW "JUST POLICY DESPITE LETTER BY 76 SENATORS URGING PRESIDENT FORD TO CONTINUE MASSIVE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL."

6. WEEKLY AKHBAR EL-YOM REPORTS THAT, ACCORDING TO "WASHINGTON CIRCLES," PRESIDENT FORD WILL OUTLINE FOR SADAT ARGUMENTS TO BE LATER TAKEN UP WITH RABIN IN WASHINGTON. PAPER QUOTES "ARAB CIRCLES" THAT, IN TALKS WITH PRESIDENT FORD, "SADAT HAS POSITION STRONGER THAN HIS POSITION DURING TALKS WITH NIXON." NEW POSITION IS RESULT OF "OBTAINING FULL SUPPORT FROM SAUDI ARABIA, JORDAN, KUWAIT AND GULF COUNTRIES" AND FACT THAT SYRIA AND JORDAN "HAVE ABANDONED THEIR RESERVATIONS." PAPER BRIEFLY REPORTS PRESS STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT FORD AND SADAT ON FOREIGN NEWS PAGE.

7. EDITORIALLY, AKHBAR EL-YOM'S COLUMNIST MOHAMED ZAKY ABDEL-QADIR MAINTAINS THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S MEETINGS WITH SADAT AND RABIN "WILL REVEAL PATH U.S. IS FOLLOWING IN RESPECT TO ME CRISIS SETTLEMENT." WRITER ADDS THAT NEITHER PRESIDENT FORD, NOR WHITE HOUSE NOR SENATE "HAVE FULL POWER TO TAKE DECISIONS." WRITER GOES ON TO SAY THAT EVEN U.S. AS WHOLE CANNOT TAKE DECISIONS ALONE BECAUSE "USSR STILL REPRESENTS WEIGHT THAT SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED" AS IT IS OBVIOUS FROM FREQUENT KISSINGER-GROMYKO MEETINGS.

8. AL AHRAM AND AKHBAR EL-YOM REPORTS AMBASSADOR EILTS' DEPARTURE FOR SALZBURG VIA BRUSSELS.
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